



January 14, 2016

The Revenant



The Revenant is poetry in motion and emotion. Leonardo Di Caprio is transcendent in the role of a man whose battle to stay alive knows no limit. The story of a trapper whose confrontation with a grizzly bear leaves him helpless and defenseless is a triumph in acting, directing and cinematography. *The Revenant* is the classic good vs. evil tale set in the amoral wilderness. What transpires here is film making at its very best. A great story with memorable leads thanks to Di Caprio and Tom Hardy as the villain's villain.

The juxtaposition between the serene beauties of nature against the brutal reality of life during that period is breathtaking. Shock and awe keep you engaged, alive and anticipating every scene. This is war in the absolute.

The Revenant questions the very nature of human existence and what a person will do given the right motivation. Perseverance against all odds, karmic

irony and moral ambiguity play out from every angle.

Be forewarned, however, this is not a film for younger children. The violence is graphic, intense and agonizingly appropriate. The elements are just as important as the actors as the snow becomes both enemy and salvation. Water is life giving, cleansing and purifying at the same time turbulent and relentless. Animals are both hunter and hunted, giving us a glimpse into what it means to be fully human with all our vulnerabilities.

The Revenant is also about love and fidelity and loyalty. It is about the best and worst in us and how that impacts everything and everyone around us. We are constantly reminded that we are just a small part of a much bigger picture and that our interconnectedness is not to be disregarded, neglected or abused. There are few films that are as moving in terms of the existential questions we all must face in life.



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In the face of the unthinkable, what choices will we make? When all is lost, what remains? Resilience is put into a life and death context such that each threat becomes another movement in this cosmic ballet of being and of nothingness. *The Revenant* deserves the best picture win this year. It has my vote. I give *The Revenant* five big golden tickets. Don't miss it.

